

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 DODE-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03

SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 IGA-02 EB-11 /094 R

DRAFTED BY DOD/ISA:HAMOS:DTM

APPROVED BY EA:MSTEARNES

DOD/ISA:DJDOOLIN

JCS:BGH HANKET

AID/SA/C:GKAMENS

EA/LC:LMRIVES

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R 262059Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 191731

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, EAID, CB

SUBJECT: ROUTE 4 LOGISTIC ENHANCEMENT: POL TRANSPORT

REFS: A. PHNOM PENH 9788; B. SECDEF 3451/201642Z SEP 73

1. NOW THAT TANKER UNITS ARE BEING MADE AVAILABLE PER REF B, IT SEEMS DESIRABLE TO PIN DOWN EXACTLY HOW THE KHMER INTEND TO MAKE USE OF THIS ADDED CAPABILITY. WE ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE CONTINGENCY PLANNING BUT A READING OF REF A IMPLIES THAT THE TRANSPORT OF POL FROM KOMPONG SOM TO PHNOM PENH WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN ONLY IN THE EVENT THAT THE MEKONG BECAME SERIOUSLY INTERDICTED. IF OUR READING IS CORRECT, IT SEEMS THAT THIS WOULD BE TOO LATE.

2. FROM OUR VIEW, IT APPEARS HIGHLY DESIRABLE FOR THE GKR TO MOVE WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY TO ESTABLISH AT LEAST A TOKEN POL TRANSPORT OPERATION OVER ROUTE 4, USING THIS EQUIPMENT. IN THIS WAY, THEY WILL HAVE TIME TO SOLVE THE MANY OTHER PROBLEMS WHICH STILL REMAIN BEFORE POL CAN ACTUALLY MOVE  
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OVER ROUTE 4. AS A MINIMUM THEY MUST SETTLE ON A STORAGE

FACILITY AT KOMPONG SOM AND MAKE IT READY; THEY MUST BEGIN TO SCHEDULE POL INTO KOMPONG SOM; THEY NEED TO BEGIN INTERGRATING THE TRANSPORT OF POL WITH OTHER ROUTE 4 CONVOYS. IN THIS CONNECTION, PLEASE ADVISE IF THE KHMER DO NOT HAVE THE EQUIPMENT NECESSARY TO OFF-LOAD AND RELOAD THE TANKER UNITS WHEN THEY ARRIVE.

3. STARTING THIS OPERATION WILL ALSO PERMIT THE KHMER TO JUDGE THE IMPACT OF DIVERTING TRUCKS TO THE TRANSPORT OF POL.

4. WE WOULD LEAVE TO YOUR JUDGMENT THE SIZE OF THE OPERATION, FEELING ONLY THAT IT SHOULD BE SUBSTANTIAL ENOUGH TO REQUIRE KHMER TO SOLVE THE MEANINGFUL PROBLEMS THAT WILL ARISE AND THUS PUT THEMSELVES IN POSITION TO MEET A REAL EMERGENCY. THIS WOULD INCLUDE THE DIVERSION AT THIS TIME OF A SMALL NUMBER OF TRUCKS TO FULL-TIME POL TRANSPORT.

5. REQUEST YOUR COMMENTS ON WHAT THE KHMER ARE DOING AND THE FEASIBILITY OF THIS SORT OF OPERATION. RUSH

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